

CLAIMS

1. A shim which includes a tapered body member provided with a plurality of wedge elements and at least one retaining member between said wedge elements, which
5 retaining member is able to be engaged in a friction fit manner by a screw, nail or the like to retain the shim in a working position.

2. A shim according to claim 1, wherein the retaining member is deformable so as to deform around a screw, nail or the like.

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3. A shim according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the retaining member includes a plurality of retaining elements, the spacing between said elements and the rigidities thereof being sufficient to hold the shim in position when the retaining means engage a screw, nail or the like.

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4. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein the retaining member includes a plurality of laterally extending and spaced fingers.

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5. A shim according to claim 4, wherein the fingers are resiliently deformable.

6. A shim according to claim 4 or 5, wherein facing fingers are provided on facing sides of adjacent wedge elements, facing fingers being less than substantially 1 millimetre apart from one another.

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7. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein retaining means are provided on each wedge element.

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8. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein the first and second side wedge elements extend in substantially the same direction and are connected to one another by at least one connecting member.

9. A shim according to claim 8, wherein the connecting member is located at the thick end of each wedge element.

10. A shim according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the two wedge elements can be separated and used independently of one another.

11. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said wedge elements has a width substantially equal to or less than the width of double glazed glass.

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12. A shim according to claim 11, wherein said at least one wedge element has a width of no more than 20 millimetres.

13. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein the shim is provided with transverse break lines.

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14. A shim according to claim 13, wherein the break lines are formed by V-shaped grooves.

15. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein at least the wedge surfaces are smooth.

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16. A shim according to any preceding claim, including recessed areas on at least one surface of the shim.

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17. A shim according to claim 16, wherein the recessed areas constitute at least 50% of the surface area of a side of the shim in which the recessed areas are provided.

18. A shim according to any preceding claim, wherein the shim is made of a plastics material, metal or a fibrous material.

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19. A shim for building applications including first and second wedge elements arranged substantially coplanar to one another and a connecting element at a thick end of the shim, which connecting element enables the wedge elements to be used as a unitary shim, the wedge elements being detachable from the connecting element so as to be usable
5 individually.

20. A shim according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said wedge elements has a width substantially equal to or less than the width of double glazed glass.

10 21. A shim according to claim 20, wherein said at least one wedge element has a width of no more than 20 millimetres.